Volume 19, Edition 5 May 2015

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

FRANKLY SPEAKING!

Well, it's May already. Mother's day went well, we cancelled for Young Eagles, probably a good move...

I'd like to thank all that helped make the Hamfest such a great event. I think as far as these things go, we seem to have a great team that's pulls together and makes things happen. Speaking of making things happen, Field Day is next month! We'll be at the airport this year, and discuss at the meeting.

I'd like to do another show and tell for the Meeting this month. Bring in something unique or interesting to show.

I recently found an old member of VOMARC Kermit Parker wrote an autobiography. It's online, and very interesting.

You can check it out at:

http://www.armysignalocs.com/classmatehistory/ww2/42-12_Parker_Kermit/42-12_parker.html

Its hosted online and a page by page deal, but well worth the trouble. Not to spoil it, but he travelled in his childhood with his mother across the western US in a covered wagon!

Since last month, I've been having a blast using the K3 with the cw paddles to operate RTTY. The radio decodes it over the air on screen to read and you send cw into it and it sends it out over the air as rtty. Its an easy way to make rtty qso's without any interface. It works for psk as well. I'm up to 70 countries now, almost there! Its renewed my interest as it gets boring in between expeditions to new countries. There's always something else in this hobby to keep it fun.

Don't forget to bring a show & tell item to the meeting!

Until then, keep your amps tuned and your aerials resonant.

—73, Frank KG6N

NEXT MEETING
Wed, May 20, 2015, 7:30pm
City of Sonoma EOC

MINUTES APRIL 15

Meeting was called to order at 7:29ish PM by the honorable President, Frank Wiebusch, KG6N

Members present at the meeting were: KD6FIL (Dave), KG6QNT (Eileen), K6UUW, (Jim), N7PIB (San), KJ6QIQ (Scott), K6KLL (Alan), WD6BOR (Darrel), KI6JNU (Moe), KG6N (Frank), KJ6AZU (Gabriel)

Minutes were approved for the March 18 meeting as published in the newsletter.

Report from officers:

President: DX Convention is the weekend of April 17.

Vice President: Holy Land DX contest is April 17 and 18. Last year 5 contacts won the section.

Treasurer: We have positive balance of $1178.09. We have $3104.70 in the bank and

again denied the Procurement Officer's request to go on a shopping spree!

Secretary: We are getting N6P set up thanks to N6KM. The paperwork for Hamfest is all in and we are good to go.

ACS: There is a volunteer party on April 16. Moe needs a current roster of ACS volunteers.

Website: Looks good, send updates to KD6FIL.

Old Business

Hamfest: Job assignments. Access is at 7 AM on Saturday. Jim and Darrel were going to call members to encourage help at the Hamfest.

Mystery Box: The mystery box made its way back to the meeting. WD6BOR was the lucky winner of the Mystery box this month.

Young Eagles: The Young Eagles Event on April 12 was good with a number of DX contacts. The next one is May 10. There was a request to do a presentation on amateur radio to the Aviation Explorer Post after Young Eagles in the future.

New Business

N6P: The International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend is August 15 and 16.

License Classes: SCRA has a 3 day license class. SMRS has a one day class and test.

Next Month's Meeting Presentation: We need a presentation for next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 2000 PM exactly!

The meeting discussion was Hamfest items and setup.

—Respectfully submitted by Dave KD6FIL

HAMFEST WRAP-UP

The VOMARC Hamfest for 2015 is now in the history books and we can all take a short rest before starting the planning for 2016. It will be a presidential election year so I think we can anticipate a huge turnout with people looking for some respite from the campaign commercials.

Ed ,W1EJ, and his merry band did another outstanding job of feeding poor hams looking for good food. They served up 78 full breakfasts, eight pancake-only breakfasts and thirteen solitary cups of coffee. Ed's Regulars and Reserves were Dick, KF6FZM, Andrew, KE6HID, Moe, KI6JNU, Dave, KD6FIL, Declan, KA6QQO, Mary Pat, Rachel, KI6DHG, and new-to-our-group, Kim, KI6BIX. There may have been a few others circulating through, but I didn't get by there until later in the morning and may have missed them. I say the same thing every year; if Ed ever retires we are going to have to close up the hamfest. Ed and Jim, K6UUW, did the shopping on Friday and got the foodstuffs into the fridge while Dave, KD6FIL, brought the rest of the supplies which have been stored in the club cabinet in his garage. Dave has generously donated the storage fees back to the club, as well as arranging for the City of Sonoma Vet's Building free day, arranging the insurance, and making the countless call to the various agencies needing calling to make this all happen.

Several of our members were here, there and everywhere. Because I had forgotten the club antennas at the hangar, Dave ran out and picked them up, once again bailing out my reputation. He then corralled Craig, KF6QZP, and they both defied gravity and get the antennas onto the roof and the feedlines into the building to the operating station. Moe, KI6JNU, put out the signs, circulated through the kitchen, canvased the vendors to sell breakfasts, set up and took down, and generally, like Dave, did whatever he saw needed to be done.

Sam, W5LTP, and Bea helped get the informational signs up, the club swap table organized, and then took the first shift on the registration table to sell breakfast tickets and register our guests. The first hour or so of set-up are always disorganized, so it was quite a relief having so many competent, capable people on the job. Frank, NG6N, helped tote in all the heavy boxes of books, magazines and vintage electronics that went on the club swap table. Frank then helped Stan, NJ6E, get the selling started before energizing the club demonstration station using his new K3. I'm

told he made contacts with DX stations including one in France before realizing that he was operating 5 watts. He may have to consider selling the linear just to save on electricity with such a fine new radio. He bought the rig as a kit and stayed up until past midnight to have it together and operating for the hamfest.

Because it had rained during the night and the forecast was uncertain, we had fewer outside swap vendors than previous years. Scott, KJ6QIQ, able and with good grace and humor, collected the money and registered the swap sellers, bringing in another $130 for the club treasury. Mike, WB6TMH, was at the hamfest early to set-up and stayed until the end to take-down, taking a break in the middle to run a hidden transmitter hunt. Bill, KJ6EIG, came down to lend a hand with the take-down-pick-up-carry-out, which was much appreciated as the event wound down.

ARRL was again well represented with Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Pacific Division president, Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, Pacific Division Vice-president, and Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, San Francisco Section Manager, all who donated to the club registration raffle. Bill also donated several nice items for club raffles at the club meetings throughout the year. Bob had mentioned that we hadn't reserved a special parking spot for the official ARRL automobile, but I surprised him by leading him to that one last hidden spot hiding under my utility trailer. He repaid my cleverness by kindly reading the callsigns off a couple raffle tickets that my tired old eyes couldn't quite make out and didn't remind me too much of my decrepitude the rest of the day. It was nice once again having them here to represent the ARRL with our members and guests. I even promised to have that special spot reserved for them again next year.

I want to also thank Ham Radio Outlet, or HRO, down in Oakland for their generous donation of multiple hamfest raffle prizes. They are our local favorite ham "candy store" and we always appreciate their support.

Wives were well represented at the hamfest, with Sabine Salek spending a romantic morning with Stan helping with the club swap table and Catherine, KE6LNP, and Penny, KE6LNM, taking the registration table duties for the rest of the morning while catching up on good books and grandchildren. It was nice to see Mike and Penny's son Chris, W6MTN, home for a visit.

Stan, NJ6E, did his usual outstanding job at the club swap table again this year. With the loss of Jan, K9OOU, this year, the club received a very generous donation of his equipment, which added to the club swap tables receipts of over $1,000, in addition to the gear sold for the individual members.

Jim, K6UUW, once again led the team of dedicated Volunteer examiners Alan, K6KLL, Sanford, N7PIB, Ken, N6KM, and Gordon, W6DUU, aided by some volunteers from other clubs, to administer thirteen exams, and issue eleven new licenses and upgrades. One of those was a fellow, Kent Leech, who started coming to our hamfest looking for tubes for his interest in vintage electronics and who has been up to help sort vacuum tubes from silent key estates. The tubes were finally sold this year and Kent not only passed his technician exam but very generously took many boxes of old books, technical manuals, ham magazines and vintage electronics components left over from the club swap table to the radio museum in the East Bay. I won't know what to do with the newly opened space in my garage and hangar. (continued on p. 4)

IWHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

Frank working on the K3 radio in Jim’s garage.

(Hamfest, continued from p. 3)

It was wonderful to see Ken out and about once again after his challenging year. Gordon, who has volunteered to do anything that needed doing for the club has broadened his enjoyment of ham radio by becoming our latest Volunteer Examiner and has embraced the job with mucho gusto.

I want to slip in a special thank you to John, the Sonoma County person in charge of the Vet's building during the day of the event. He opened a little early, arranged tables and everything else and spent the morning asking what more he could do to help us. I told him to schedule himself for the hamfest day next year because he was an absolute delight to work with.

The hamfest grossed $1,870. Figuring in all the hours of volunteer time spent on planning and during the actual day, that would work out to something well below minimum wage. If we were doing this purely for profit, I think there would be a bloody purge of the CEO and the rest of management, but we still seem to have a great time with the event. It wouldn't happen without the whole club pitching in and doing what they do, but the reward, other than afternoon exhuastion and a nap, is the fun of sharing a fascinating hobby with other like-minded lunatics. So this, in my awkward and humble way, is my heartfelt thank-you to the members of VOMARC for once again making our annual hamfest, which started in the previous century in 1979, yet another rousing, enjoyable success.

—73, Darrel WD6BOR

FCC Proposes to Permit Amateur Access to 2200 and 630 Meters

Amateur Radio is poised to gain access to two new bands! The FCC has allocated a new LF band, 135.7 to 137.8 kHz, to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis. Allocation of the 2.1 kHz segment, known as 2200 meters, was in accordance with the *Final Acts* of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07). TheCommission also has proposed a new secondary 630 meter MF allocation at 472 to 479 kHz to Amateur Radio, implementing decisions made at WRC-12. No Amateur Radio operation will be permitted in either band until the FCC determines, on the basis of comments, the specific Part 97 rules it must frame to permit operation in the new bands. Amateur Radio would share both allocations with unlicensed Part 15 power line carrier (PLC) systems operated by utilities to control the power grid, as well as with other users. In addition, the FCC has raised the secondary Amateur Service allocation at 1900 to 2000 kHz to primary, while providing for continued use by currently unlicensed commercial fishing vessels of radio buoys on the "open sea." (At 137 kHz, a vertical would be around 1700ft.

From ARRL Newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

Amateur Radio Continues to Provide Reliable Post-Quake Communication in Nepal

Amateur Radio has continued to provide reliable communication in the aftermath of the devastating April 25 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck an area in and around the capital of Kathmandu. The disaster has so far claimed more than 7300 lives, and aftershocks, on the order of magnitude 4, continued this week.

Amateur Radio's role, now winding down, has been to provide communication for responders working in more remote regions as well as to help in locating missing people. It also has served to convey information about casualties. Jayu Bhide, VU2JAU, the Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) National Coordinator for Disaster Communication, said this week that rescue teams moved into highly devastated areas such as Pokhara and Sindupalchowk, where their work was hampered by rain and blocked roads. "Teams are unable to reach the remotest villages," he said on May 5. "The roads are cut off, and no communication is possible." The rain has since letup

While Nepal's cell telephone infrastructure has been functional, the batteries in most mobile telephones have discharged. On his own initiative, Bhide was able to secure funds from the Lions Club in Gwalior, where he lives, to buy 500 mobile chargers. "These will be shipped to Nepal soon," he said.

No Nepali stations were on the air for all of May 4, Bhide reported. "Everyone was waiting to get some updates, but no one was there," he said. Satish Kharel, 9N1AA, who has been prominent among the hams in Nepal involved with the earthquake response, and Bhide now are maintaining contact every 2 hours.

Nepal has only about 2 dozen Amateur Radio licensees, according to Nepali authorities last week arranged for hams from other countries to obtain 9N3-prefix call signs to assist in the earthquake relief effort, and several hams from India are in Nepal.

(from ARRL newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 19 EDITION 5

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Frank Wiebusch KG6N — President

Scott Wellington KJ6QIQ —Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator, Training Officer, President Emeritus

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

c/o Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

2015 ACS
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2015 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	MOE	KI6JNU
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE MAY 20, 7:30PM AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC, 175 1ST ST WEST, SONOMA
SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2015 Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP:_____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: $ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date:_____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**